

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical display device comprising a plurality of liquid crystal switching elements which comprise a liquid crystal layer comprising liquid crystal molecules and having a surface for display of an image which is switched under control of an electric field having a predominant component parallel to said surface, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle α_0 , $0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 < 30^\circ$ ~~α_0 , $0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 < 30^\circ$~~ , and an orientation angle β_0 , $0^\circ < \beta_0 < 90^\circ$ ~~β_0 , $0^\circ < \beta_0 < 90^\circ$~~ , wherein the liquid crystal layer has an untwisted structure in its initial orientation and can be reoriented to a twisted structure by said field component oriented predominantly parallel to the liquid crystal layer.

21-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle α_0 , $0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 \leq 1^\circ$ ~~α_0 , $0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 \leq 1^\circ$~~ .

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 5^\circ$ ~~α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 5^\circ$~~ .

31. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 2^\circ$ ~~α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 2^\circ$~~ .

32. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 1^\circ$ ~~α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 1^\circ$~~ ~~$\alpha_0$, $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 1^\circ$~~ .

33-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical display device of claim 20, wherein β_0 ~~β_0~~ is not 45° .

38-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein the initial twist angle β of the liquid crystal molecules is within 15 degrees of 0° , ~~or within 15 degrees of 90° .~~

42-46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, further comprising an analyzer in optical relation with said polarizer.

48. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein $\Delta n \cdot d / \lambda$ ~~$\Delta n \cdot d / \lambda$~~ of the liquid crystal layer is larger than zero but smaller than four.

49. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein the axes of switching-effective twisting of the liquid crystal molecules are substantially perpendicular to the plane of the substrate.

50-57. (Canceled)

58. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein said matrix is an active matrix.

59. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein the plurality of liquid crystal switching elements are addressed by the time multiplex method.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein the active matrix is a transistor matrix.

62-69. (Canceled)

70. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein the angle between the direction of the initial orientation of the liquid crystal molecules at the surface of the liquid crystal layer on the side of the polarizer and the light transmitting direction of the polarizer is approximately 90° , and the angle between the light transmitting direction of said polarizer and the light transmitting direction of the analyzer is approximately 0° ~~or approximately 90°~~ .

71-78. (Canceled)

79. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein the switching elements comprise a birefringent optical compensator in optical correlation with the liquid-crystal layer.

80. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein said liquid crystal layer comprises a polymer.

81-96. (Canceled)

97. (Previously Presented) An electro-optical device of claim 20, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle β_0 which is not 40° , not 45° and not 50° .

98. (Canceled)

99. (Previously Presented) An electro-optical device of claim 20, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle $\beta_0 > 55^\circ$ or $\beta_0 < 35^\circ$.

100. (Canceled)

101. (Previously Presented) An electro-optical device of claim 20, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle $\beta_0 > 65^\circ$ or $\beta_0 < 25^\circ$.

102. (Previously Presented) An electro-optical device of claim 20, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle $\beta_0 > 70^\circ$ or $\beta_0 < 20^\circ$.

103. (Previously Presented) An electro-optical device of claim 20, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle $\beta_0 > 75^\circ$ or $\beta_0 < 15^\circ$.

104-118. (Canceled)

119. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical display device comprising a plurality of liquid crystal switching elements which comprise a liquid crystal layer comprising liquid crystal molecules and having a surface for display of an image which is switched under control of an electric field having a predominant component parallel to said surface, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle $\alpha_0, 0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 < 30^\circ$ ~~$\alpha_0, 0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 < 30^\circ$~~ ,

wherein said liquid crystal switching elements further comprise:

- (a) said liquid crystal molecules which are twistable;
- (b) a substrate;
- (c) an electrode structure which generates said electric field having a component predominantly parallel to the surface of said liquid crystal layer;
- (d) a polarizer in optical relation with said liquid crystal layer;
- (e) a voltage source or a current source connected to said electrode structure; and

- (f) an orientation layer, in contact with at least one surface of said liquid crystal layer, which aligns the liquid crystal molecules in a direction whereby they have an orientation angle β_0 , $0^\circ < \beta_0 < 90^\circ$ ~~β_0 , $0^\circ < \beta_0 < 90^\circ$~~ , wherein the liquid crystal layer has an untwisted structure in its initial orientation and can be reoriented to a twisted structure by said field component oriented predominantly parallel to the liquid crystal layer.

120-143. (Canceled)

144. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical display device comprising a plurality of liquid crystal switching elements which comprise a liquid crystal layer comprising liquid crystal molecules and having a surface for display of an image which is switched under control of an electric field having a predominant component parallel to said surface, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle α_0 , $0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 < 30^\circ$, and an orientation angle β_0 , $0^\circ < \beta_0 < 90^\circ$, wherein the initial twist angle β of the liquid crystal molecules is within 15 degrees of 0° , or within 15 degrees of 90° ~~An electro-optical device of claim 125~~, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle $\beta_0 > 70^\circ$ or $\beta_0 < 20^\circ$.

145. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical device of claim 144 ~~125~~, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle $\beta_0 > 75^\circ$ or $\beta_0 < 15^\circ$.

146. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical display device comprising a plurality of liquid crystal switching elements which comprise a liquid crystal layer comprising liquid crystal molecules and having a surface for display of an image which is switched under control of an electric field having a predominant component parallel to said surface, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle α_0 , $0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 < 30^\circ$ ~~α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 < 30^\circ$~~ , and an orientation angle β_0 , $0^\circ < \beta_0 < 90^\circ$ ~~β_0 , $0^\circ < \beta_0 < 90^\circ$~~ , wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle $\beta_0 > 70^\circ$ or $\beta_0 < 20^\circ$.

147. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical display device comprising a plurality of liquid crystal switching elements which comprise a liquid crystal layer comprising liquid crystal molecules and having a surface for display of an image which is switched under control of an electric field having a predominant component parallel to said surface, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle $\underline{\alpha_0, 0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 < 30^\circ}$ ~~$\alpha_0, 0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 < 30^\circ$~~ ,

wherein said liquid crystal switching elements further comprise:

- (a) said liquid crystal molecules which are twistable;
- (b) a substrate;
- (c) an electrode structure which generates said electric field having a component predominantly parallel to the surface of said liquid crystal layer;
- (d) a polarizer in optical relation with said liquid crystal layer;
- (e) a voltage source or a current source connected to said electrode structure; and
- (f) an orientation layer, in contact with at least one surface of said liquid crystal layer, which aligns the liquid crystal molecules in a direction whereby they have an orientation angle $\underline{\beta_0, 0^\circ < \beta_0 < 90^\circ}$ ~~$\beta_0, 0^\circ < \beta_0 < 90^\circ$~~ ,

wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle $\beta_0 > 70^\circ$ or $\beta_0 < 20^\circ$.

148. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, ~~152~~, 163 or 164, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle $\underline{\alpha_0, 0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 \leq 1^\circ}$ ~~$\alpha_0, 0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 \leq 1^\circ$~~ .

149. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, ~~152~~, 163 or 164, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle $\underline{\alpha_0, 0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 5^\circ}$ ~~$\alpha_0, 0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 5^\circ$~~ .

150. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, ~~152~~, 163 or 164, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle $\underline{\alpha_0, 0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 2^\circ}$ ~~$\alpha_0, 0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 2^\circ$~~ .

151. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, ~~152~~, 163 or 164, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 1^\circ$ ~~α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 1^\circ$~~ .

152. (Cancelled)

153. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, ~~152~~, 163 or 164, wherein the initial twist angle β of the liquid crystal molecules is within 15 degrees of 0° , or within 15 degrees of 90° .

154. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, ~~152~~, 163 or 164, further comprising an analyzer in optical relation with said polarizer.

155. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, ~~152~~, 163 or 164, ~~[[γ]]~~ wherein $\Delta n \cdot d / \lambda$ of the liquid crystal layer is larger than zero but smaller than four.

156. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, ~~152~~, 163 or 164, wherein the axes of switching-effective twisting of the liquid crystal molecules are substantially perpendicular to the plane of the substrate.

157. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, ~~152~~, 163 or 164, wherein said matrix is an active matrix.

158. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, ~~152~~, 163 or 164, wherein the plurality of liquid crystal switching elements are addressed by the time multiplex method.

159. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, ~~152~~, 163 or 164, wherein the active matrix is a transistor matrix.

160. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, ~~152~~, 163 or 164, wherein the angle between the direction of the initial orientation of the liquid crystal molecules at the surface of the liquid crystal layer on the side of the polarizer and the light transmitting direction of the polarizer is approximately 90° , and the angle between the light

transmitting direction of said polarizer and the light transmitting direction of the analyzer is approximately 0° ~~or approximately 90°~~ .

161. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, 163 or 164 ~~20~~, wherein the switching elements comprise a birefringent optical compensator in optical correlation with the liquid-crystal layer.

162. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, ~~152~~, 163 or 164, wherein said liquid crystal layer comprises a polymer.

163. (Previously Presented) An electro-optical device of claim 146, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle $\beta_0 > 75^\circ$ or $\beta_0 < 15^\circ$.

164. (Previously Presented) An electro-optical device of claim 147, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle $\beta_0 > 75^\circ$ or $\beta_0 < 15^\circ$.

165. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical display device comprising a liquid crystal layer comprising liquid crystal molecules and having a surface for display of an image which is switched under control of an electric field having a predominant component parallel to said surface, wherein said liquid crystal molecules are in homogeneous alignment and have a pretilt angle α_0 and an orientation angle β_0 ~~α_θ and an orientation angle β_θ~~ which prevent domain formation in said image and/or which impart to said image a small viewing angle dependence and a correspondingly improved image contrast, wherein said α_0 and β_0 ~~α_θ and β_θ~~ values impart to said image a small viewing angle dependence wherein the variation of the degree of light transmission ($1-f_{\min}/f_{\max}$) is, over all ϕ values, below about 0.57 when θ is up to 45° .

166. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical display device comprising a liquid crystal layer comprising liquid crystal molecules and having a surface for display of an image which is switched under control of an electric field having a predominant component parallel to said surface, wherein said liquid crystal molecules are in homogeneous alignment and have a pretilt angle α_0 and an orientation angle β_0 ~~α_θ and an orientation angle β_θ~~ which reduce domain formation in said image and/or which impart to said image a small viewing angle dependence and a correspondingly improved image contrast, wherein said α_0 and β_0 ~~α_θ and β_θ~~ values impart to said image a small viewing angle dependence wherein the variation of the degree of light transmission ($1-f_{\min}/f_{\max}$) is, over all ϕ values, below about 0.57 when θ is up to 45° .

167. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical display device of claim 166 comprising a plurality of liquid crystal switching elements which comprise a liquid crystal layer comprising liquid crystal molecules and having a surface for display of an image which is switched under control of an electric field having a predominant component parallel to said surface, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle α_0 , $0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 < 30^\circ$ and an orientation angle β_0 , $0^\circ < \beta_0 \leq 90^\circ$ ~~α_0 , $0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 < 30^\circ$ and an orientation angle β_0 , $0^\circ < \beta_0 < 90^\circ$.~~

168. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, or 188, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle α_0 , $0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 \leq 1^\circ$ ~~α_0 , $0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 \leq 1^\circ$.~~

169. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188 or 189, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 5^\circ$ ~~α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 5^\circ$.~~

170. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, or 188, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 2^\circ$ ~~α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 2^\circ$.~~

171. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, or 188, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 1^\circ$ ~~α_0 , $0^\circ < \alpha_0 \leq 1^\circ$.~~

172. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical display device of claim 167, wherein β_0 ~~β_0~~ is not 45° .

173. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188 or 189, wherein the initial twist angle β of the liquid crystal molecules is within 15 degrees of 0° , or within 15 degrees of 90° .

174. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, or 188, further comprising an analyzer in optical relation with said polarizer.

175. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188 or 189, wherein $\Delta n \cdot d / \lambda$ of the liquid crystal layer is larger than zero but smaller than four.

176. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, or 188, wherein the axes of switching-effective twisting of the liquid crystal molecules are substantially perpendicular to the plane of the substrate.

177. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188 or 189, wherein said matrix is an active matrix.

178. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, or 188, wherein the plurality of liquid crystal switching elements are addressed by the time multiplex method.

179. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, or 188, wherein the active matrix is a transistor matrix.

180. (Currently Amended) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, or 188, wherein the angle between the direction of the initial orientation of the liquid crystal molecules at the surface of the liquid crystal layer on the side of the polarizer and the light transmitting direction of the polarizer is approximately 90° , and the angle between the light transmitting direction of said polarizer and the light transmitting direction of the analyzer is approximately 0° ~~or approximately 90°~~ .

181. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188 or 189, wherein the switching elements comprise a birefringent optical compensator in optical correlation with the liquid-crystal layer.

182. (Previously Presented) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188 or 189, wherein said liquid crystal layer comprises a polymer.

183. (Previously Presented) An electro-optical device of claim 167, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle β_0 which is not 40° , not 45° and not 50° .

184. (Previously Presented) An electro-optical device of claim 167, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle $\beta_0 > 55^\circ$ or $\beta_0 < 35^\circ$.

185. (Previously Presented) An electro-optical device of claim 167, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle $\beta_0 > 65^\circ$ or $\beta_0 < 25^\circ$.

186. (Previously Presented) An electro-optical device of claim 167, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle $\beta_0 > 70^\circ$ or $\beta_0 < 20^\circ$.

187. (Previously Presented) An electro-optical device of claim 167, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have an orientation angle $\beta_0 > 75^\circ$ or $\beta_0 < 15^\circ$.

188. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical display device of claim 166 comprising a plurality of liquid crystal switching elements which comprise a liquid crystal layer comprising liquid crystal molecules and having a surface for display of an image which is switched under control of an electric field having a predominant component parallel to said surface, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle $\alpha_0, 0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 < 30^\circ$ ~~$\alpha_0, 0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 < 30^\circ$~~ ,

wherein said liquid crystal switching elements further comprise:

- (a) said liquid crystal molecules which are twistable;
- (b) a substrate;
- (c) an electrode structure which generates said electric field having a component predominantly parallel to the surface of said liquid crystal layer;
- (d) a polarizer in optical relation with said liquid crystal layer;
- (e) a voltage source or a current source connected to said electrode structure; and

- (f) an orientation layer, in contact with at least one surface of said liquid crystal layer, which aligns the liquid crystal molecules in a direction whereby they have an orientation angle β_0 , $0^\circ < \beta_0 < 90^\circ$ ~~β_0 , $0^\circ < \beta_0 < 90^\circ$~~ .

189. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical display device of claim 165 comprising a plurality of liquid crystal switching elements which comprise a liquid crystal layer comprising liquid crystal molecules and having a surface for display of an image which is switched under control of an electric field having a predominant component parallel to said surface, wherein said liquid crystal molecules have a pretilt angle α_0 , $0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 < 30^\circ$, and an orientation angle β_0 , $0^\circ < \beta_0 < 90^\circ$ ~~α_0 , $0^\circ \leq \alpha_0 < 30^\circ$, and an orientation angle β_0 , $0^\circ < \beta_0 < 90^\circ$~~ .

190. (New) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein the angle between the direction of the initial orientation of the liquid crystal molecules at the surface of the liquid crystal layer on the side of the polarizer and the light transmitting direction of the polarizer is approximately 90° , and the angle between the light transmitting direction of said polarizer and the light transmitting direction of the analyzer is approximately 90° .

191. (New) The electro-optical display device of claim 146, 147, 163 or 164, wherein the angle between the direction of the initial orientation of the liquid crystal molecules at the surface of the liquid crystal layer on the side of the polarizer and the light transmitting direction of the polarizer is approximately 90° , and the angle between the light transmitting direction of said polarizer and the light transmitting direction of the analyzer is approximately 90° .

192. (New) The electro-optical display device of claim 167, 172, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, or 188, wherein the angle between the direction of the initial orientation of the liquid crystal molecules at the surface of the liquid crystal layer on the side of the polarizer and the light transmitting direction of the polarizer is approximately 90° , and the angle between the light transmitting direction of said polarizer and the light transmitting direction of the analyzer is approximately 90° .

193. (New) The electro-optical display device of claim 20, 37, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103 or 119, wherein the initial twist angle β of the liquid crystal molecules is within 15 degrees of 90° .